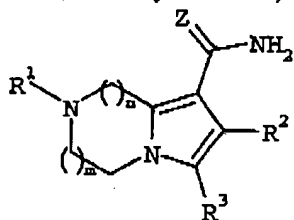


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A compound of general formula (I):



(I)

optionally further substituted in the saturated ring by one or more alkyl substituents,
in which:

R^1 represents hydrogen, R^4 , $-C(=Y)-NHR^4$, $-SO_2NHR^4$, $-C(=Z^1)-R^4$, $-SO_2-R^4$ or $-C(=Z^1)-OR^4$;

R^2 represents hydrogen, cyano, halogen or $-C\equiv C-R^5$;

R^3 represents hydrogen, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkyl, aroyl, aryl, aryloxycarbonyl, carboxy, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaroyl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl or $-C(=O)-NY^1Y^2$;

R^4 represents alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or heterocycloalkyl each optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from aryl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl,

heterocycloalkyl, $-C(=O)-OR^8$, $-C(=O)-R^9$, $-C(=O)-NY^3Y^4$, $-NY^1Y^2$,

$-N(R^{10})-C(=O)-R^9$, $-N(R^{10})-C(=O)-OR^9$, $-N(R^{10})-SO_2-R^9$ or $-Z^2R^8$; or R^4

represents aryl or heteroaryl each optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from alkylenedioxy, alkenyl, alkenyloxy, alkynyl, aryl, cyano, halo, hydroxy, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl, nitro, R^7 , $-C(=O)-NY^3Y^4$, $-C(=O)-OR^8$, $-C(=O)-R^{11}$,

$-NY^3Y^4$, $-N(R^{10})-C(=O)-R^9$, $-N(R^{10})-C(=O)-NY^5Y^6$, $-N(R^{10})-C(=O)-OR^9$,

$-N(R^{10})-SO_2-R^9$, $-N(R^{10})-SO_2-NY^5Y^6$, $-SO_2-NY^3Y^4$ and $-Z^2R^{12}$;

R^5 represents hydrogen or alkyl;

R^6 represents alkyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, aryl, arylsulfonyl, aroyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylsulfonyl, heteroaroyl and heterocycloalkyl;

R^7 represents alkyl, cycloalkyl or cycloalkylalkyl each optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from aryl, cycloalkyl, cyano, halo, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl,

hydroxy, -CHO (or a 5-, 6- or 7-membered cyclic acetal derivative thereof), -C(=O)-NY¹Y², -C(=O)-OR⁸, -NY³Y⁴, -N(R¹⁰)-C(=O)-R⁹, -N(R¹⁰)-C(=O)-NY³Y⁴, -N(R¹⁰)-SO₂-R⁹, -N(R¹⁰)-SO₂-NY³Y⁴ and -OR⁹;

R⁸ represents hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl;

R⁹ represents alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or heterocycloalkylalkyl;

R¹⁰ represents hydrogen or lower alkyl;

R¹¹ represents alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or heterocycloalkylalkyl; or alkyl optionally substituted by -NY¹Y²;

R¹² represents aryl or heteroaryl; or alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or heterocycloalkylalkyl each optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from aryl, cycloalkyl, cyano, halo, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxy, -CHO (or a 5-, 6- or 7-membered cyclic acetal derivative thereof), -C(=O)-NY¹Y², -C(=O)-OR⁸, -NY¹Y², -N(R¹⁰)-C(=O)-R⁹, -N(R¹⁰)-C(=O)-NY³Y⁴, -N(R¹⁰)-SO₂-R⁹, -N(R¹⁰)-SO₂-NY³Y⁴ and -OR⁹;

Y represents O, S or NCN;

Y¹ and Y² are independently hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl; or the group -NY¹Y² may form 5-7 membered ring which optionally contains an additional heteroatom selected from O, S or NR⁶;

Y³ and Y⁴ are independently hydrogen, alkenyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl or alkyl optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from aryl, halo, heteroaryl, hydroxy, -C(=O)-NY⁵Y⁶, -C(=O)-OR⁸, -NY⁵Y⁶, -N(R⁶)-C(=O)-R⁹, -N(R⁶)-C(=O)-NY⁵Y⁶, -N(R⁶)-SO₂-R⁹, -N(R⁶)-SO₂-NY⁵Y⁶ and -OR⁹; or the group -NY³Y⁴ may form a cyclic amine;

Y⁵ and Y⁶ are independently hydrogen, alkenyl, alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl; or the group -NY⁵Y⁶ may form a cyclic amine;

Z represents O or S;

Z¹ represents O or S;

Z² represents O or S(O)_p;

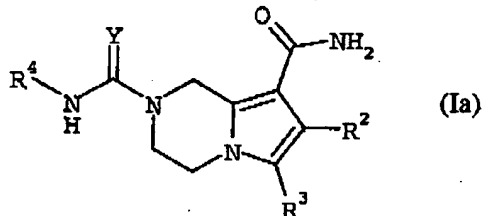
n is zero or an integer 1 or 2;

m is 1 or 2;

p is 1 or 2;

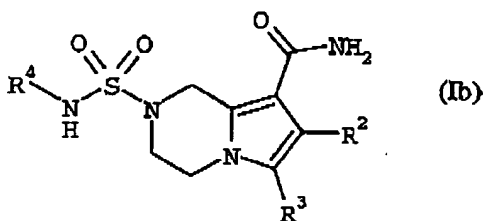
and the corresponding N-oxides, and the ~~prodrugs~~ prodrug esters; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and ~~solvates~~ hydrates of compounds of formula (I) and their N-oxides and their ~~prodrugs~~ prodrug esters.

2. (currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, of formula (Ia):



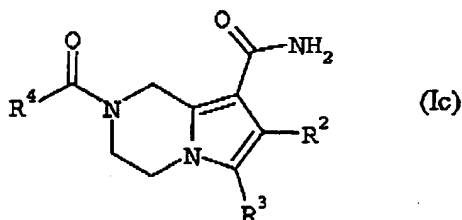
in which R², R³, R⁴ and Y are as hereinbefore defined; and the corresponding N-oxides, and the ~~prodrugs~~ prodrug esters; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and ~~solvates~~ hydrates of compounds of formula (Ia) and their N-oxides and their ~~prodrugs~~ prodrug esters.

3. (currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, of formula (Ib):



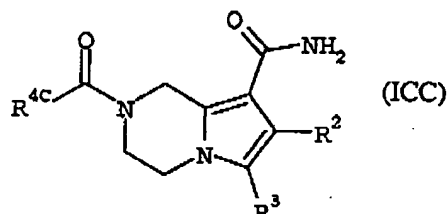
in which R², R³ and R⁴ are as hereinbefore defined; and the corresponding N-oxides, and the ~~prodrugs~~ prodrug esters; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and ~~solvates~~ hydrates of compounds of formula (Ib) and their N-oxides and their ~~prodrugs~~ prodrug esters.

4. (currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, of formula (Ic):



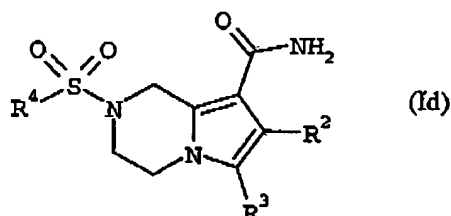
in which R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are as hereinbefore defined; and the corresponding N-oxides, and the ~~predrugs~~ prodrug esters; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and ~~solvates~~ hydrates of compounds of formula (Ic) and their N-oxides and their ~~predrugs~~ prodrug esters.

5. (currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, of formula (ICC):



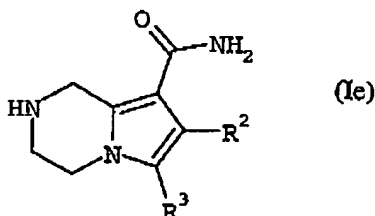
in which R^2 , R^3 and R^4C represent NHR^4 with R^4 as hereinbefore defined; and the corresponding N-oxides, and the ~~predrugs~~ prodrug esters; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and ~~solvates~~ hydrates of compounds of formula (Ic) and their N-oxides and their ~~predrugs~~ prodrug esters.

6. (currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, of formula (Id):-



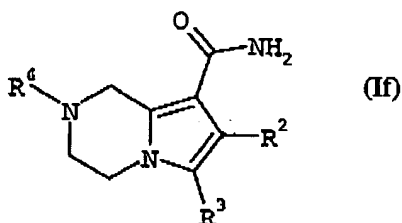
in which R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are as hereinbefore defined; and the corresponding N-oxides, and the ~~predrugs~~ prodrug esters; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and ~~solvates~~ hydrates of compounds of formula (Id) and their N-oxides and their ~~predrugs~~ prodrug esters.

7. (currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, of formula (Ie):



in which R^2 and R^3 are as hereinbefore defined; and the corresponding N-oxides, and the ~~predrugs~~ prodrug esters; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and ~~solvates~~ hydrates of compounds of formula (Ie) and their N-oxides and their ~~predrugs~~ prodrug esters.

8. (currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, of formula (If):



in which R², R³ and R⁴ are as hereinbefore defined; and the corresponding N-oxides, and the ~~prodrugs prodrug esters~~; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates hydrates of compounds of formula (If) and their N-oxides and their ~~prodrugs prodrug esters~~.

9. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as active principle, at least one compound according to claim 1.

10. (currently amended) A method of ~~treating a disease state capable of being modulated by the inhibition of JNK activity~~ inhibiting JNK activity in a patient, comprising: administering to a patient in need thereof an effective dose of a compound according to claim 1 to the patient.